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2 **CLAIMS**

3 1. In a command line operating environment, a computer-executable
4 method comprising:

5 executing each command on a command line in a first execution mode or in
6 an alternate execution mode, wherein executing the command in the alternate
7 execution mode occurs when the command includes an instruction to execute in
8 the alternate execution mode, the alternate execution mode being provided by the
9 operating environment.

10 2. The computer-executable method of claim 1, wherein the alternate
11 execution mode visually displays results of executing the command.

12 3. The computer-executable method of claim 1, wherein the alternate
13 execution mode visually displays simulated results of executing the command.

14 4. The computer-executable method of claim 1, wherein the alternate
15 execution mode prompts for verification of executing the command before
16 executing the command.

17 5. The computer-executable method of claim 1, wherein the alternate
18 execution mode performs a security check to determine whether a user requesting
19 the execution of the command has sufficient privileges to execute the command.
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1 6. The computer-executable method of claim 1, wherein executing the
2 command in the alternate execution mode further occurs when the command line
3 includes a switch indicating the alternate execution mode.

4 7. The computer-executable method of claim 6, wherein the switch
5 comprises "whatif" and the alternate execution mode visually displays simulated
6 results of executing the command.

7 8. The computer-executable method of claim 1, wherein the instruction
8 comprises a call to a method provided by the operating environment.

9 9. At least one computer-readable medium having computer-executable
10 instructions for performing a method, comprising:

11 receiving a command line operative to direct the performance of a task;
12 determining if a parameter is present on the command line that is associated
13 with a simulation mode;
14 if the parameter is present, simulating the performance of the task; and
15 reporting the results of the simulation.

1 **10.** The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the parameter
2 comprises a switch.

3 **11.** The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the switch
4 comprises "whatif".

5 **12.** The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the task
6 comprises a stand-alone executable command.

7 **13.** The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the task
8 comprises a pipeline of executable commands, each executable command
9 operating in a separate process.

10 **14.** The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the task
11 comprises a pipeline of executable commands, each executable command
12 operating in the same process.

13 **15.** The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein each
14 executable command comprises an instantiated class.

15 **16.** A system that provides a command line operating environment, the
16 system comprising:

17 a processor; and

18 a memory, the memory being allocated for a plurality of computer-
19 executable instructions which are loaded into the memory for execution by
20 the processor, the computer-executable instructions performing a method
21 comprising:

22 executing each command entered on a command line, wherein if the
23 command includes an instruction to execute the command using extended
24 functionality provided by the operating environment, executing the command
25 using the extended functionality.

1 **17.** The system of claim 16, wherein the extended functionality
2 comprises visually displaying results of executing the command.

3 **18.** The system of claim 16, wherein the extended functionality
4 comprises visually displaying simulated results of executing the command.

5 **19.** The system of claim 16, wherein the extended functionality
6 comprises prompting for verification before executing the command.

7 **20.** The system of claim 16, wherein the extended functionality
8 comprises performing a security check to determine whether a user requesting the
9 execution of the command has sufficient privileges to execute the command.
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